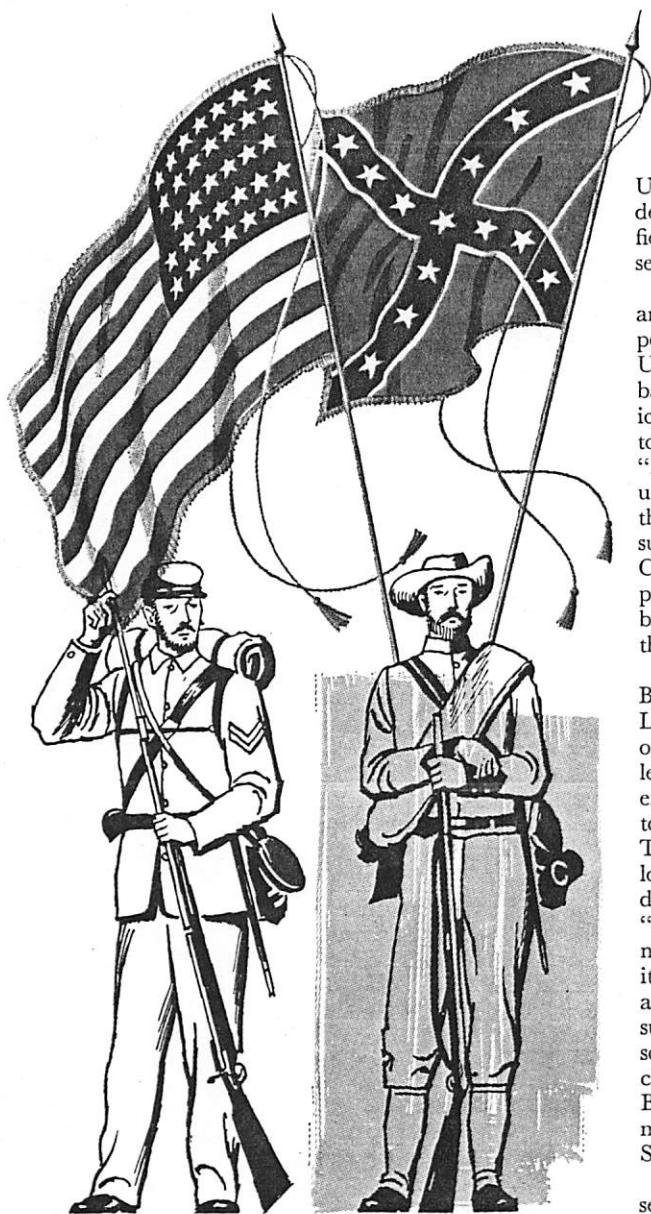


# CIVIL WAR



**CIVIL WAR** took more American lives than any other war in history. It divided the people of the United States, so that in many families brother fought against brother. The four years of bloodshed left a heritage of grief and bitterness that remains in part even today. The Civil War started on Apr. 12, 1861, when Southern artillery shelled Fort Sumter in the harbor of Charleston, S.C. It ended four years later. On Apr. 9, 1865, Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered his ragged, exhausted army to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia. The other Confederate armies surrendered shortly afterward.

Many persons call this tragic conflict the War Between the States, the War of the Rebellion, the War of the Secession, or the War for Southern Independence. But whatever it is called, the war was a great turning point in American history. It destroyed slavery in the

United States. It ended the Southern way of life that depended on slave labor in the cotton and tobacco fields. It settled the question of whether a state could secede. And it finally cemented the Union of the states.

More persons are interested in the Civil War than in any other period in United States history. It fascinates people for many reasons. It took place within the United States, and Americans can easily visit the main battlefields. The Civil War was bigger than any American war before it, but it was not too big for the student to follow. But perhaps the most appealing thing is the "human side" of the war—the men who wore the gray uniforms of the Confederacy and the blue uniforms of the Union. They fought and died for what they were sure was right. Historians have written more about the Civil War than about any other period in the American past. The American people have probably read more books about these four years than about all the rest of their history put together.

The Civil War produced many colorful personalities. By far the most outstanding figures were Abraham Lincoln and Robert E. Lee. Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States, supplied the firm but patient leadership that preserved the Union. Lee, a great general, stood off superior numbers for four years and came to stand for the gallantry and devotion of the lost cause. These two men will always rank among the most beloved national heroes. The Union Army had hard-driving, cigar-chewing Ulysses S. Grant; Philip H. "Little Phil" Sheridan, the fighting cavalryman; and nervous, excitable William T. Sherman, who summed it all up when he said that "war is hell." The Confederate Army had such leaders as the Bible-quoting, lemon-sucking infantry genius, Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson; Nathan Bedford Forrest, perhaps the greatest cavalryman of the war; and Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard, the romantic Creole general who commanded the Confederate forces that attacked Fort Sumter.

The Civil War was the first modern war because, in a sense, it was the first *total war*. The North used its superior strength to destroy the economic and industrial basis of the Confederacy. In some ways, especially at the beginning, strategy and weapons followed old patterns. But the Civil War introduced methods of warfare seldom used before, such as mines and rifled weapons. It also brought such new techniques as telegraphy, photography, balloon observation, breech-loading and repeating rifles, and trenches and wire entanglements. Railroads played an important part for the first time in a large-scale war. New types of ships proved the value of armored vessels. Volunteer forces no longer furnished

**One of the Greatest Battles in History** took place at Gettysburg, Pa., in July, 1863. This section of a cyclorama shows the "high-water mark" of General George E. Pickett's charge. Confederates broke through Union lines at "bloody angle" on the crest of Cemetery Ridge. Strong Union resistance forced the Confederates to retreat after three days of fighting.

Photograph for Time by George Strock from the painting by Henry Philipp Potteaux at Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, Pa.